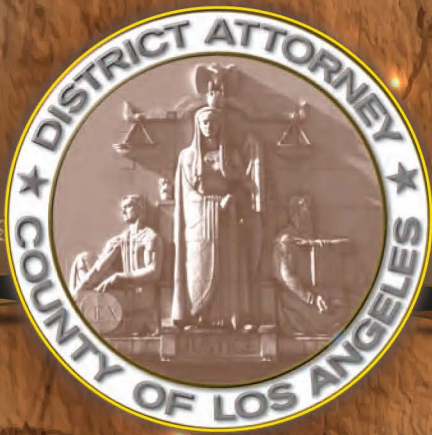


# *Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office*



## *Courageous Citizen Awards Ceremony*

Friday, October 3, 2014  
Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Los Angeles

### *Award Recipients*

**David J. Muñoz II**

Presenter: Iliana Álvarez, Deputy District Attorney

On March 25, 2011, a 6-year-old girl was lured by her assailant from a neighbor's front yard to a nearby empty elementary school in Boyle Heights. The child's family went to the school to look for the girl and encountered plant manager David Muñoz. He helped the family search the grounds. Along the way, they found her discarded clothing. Muñoz came upon a water heater closet where he discovered the victim, naked and crying, and the suspect who had just sexually assaulted her. The defendant ran away, but an undeterred Muñoz gave chase, caught the man and pinned him down until police arrived. Muñoz testified at a preliminary hearing, despite being fearful of retaliation by the defendant's family and his possible gang affiliates.

**Alicia De la Cruz and Robert Edwards**

Presenter: Bobby Zoumberakis, Deputy District Attorney

The heroic actions of Alicia De la Cruz and Robert Edwards likely saved the life of a homeless man on June 15, 2011. The transient was panhandling on a freeway off-ramp when he antagonized the suspect, the co-founder of the Pinkberry frozen yogurt chain. The suspect and another man returned later and chased and beat the homeless man with a tire iron. Edwards, unarmed and outnumbered, ran toward the attackers and intervened. The two suspects ran away, but Edwards followed after checking on the victim. He was unable to catch them but he called 911 and gave police a description of what happened. De la Cruz also saw what occurred and approached the suspects. She threatened to call police and when the suspects fled, she chased after them in her vehicle and wrote down their license plate number. She returned to the crime scene and gave police the information. At sentencing, the judge suggested the good Samaritans deserved an award for their bravery.

**Roger Ramirez**

Presenter: Sean Hassett, Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney

When Bell resident Roger Ramirez heard a rumor in late 2008 that the city's top executive was making \$400,000 a year, he decided to investigate. He was rebuffed by then-Chief Administrative Officer Robert Rizzo, who told Ramirez he wouldn't be working in Bell if he made that kind of money. Some councilmembers also failed to answer Ramirez's questions about how much they were making. Ramirez then filed a Public Records Act request and within a couple of weeks he was given a document that turned out to be falsified. This fraudulent response, which vastly underreported Rizzo's salary, was a key piece of evidence used to successfully prosecute the city's two former top officials and five former councilmembers in what was the biggest municipal corruption case in the history of the District Attorney's Public Integrity Division. Ramirez testified at a preliminary hearing and at two trials. The judge noted Rizzo deserved additional punishment because he falsified the PRA.